

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181549
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SCS-06 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01
PPT-01 /043 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:PRCHAVEAS:HMN
APPROVED BY AF/W:RGHOUDEK
-----080657 182302Z /43

O 182211Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CASC, SHUM, NI

SUBJECT: RAY BAKER

REF: EASUM/CHAVEAS TELCON, JULY 18

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AF/W CHAVEAS

1. I SPOKE WITH RAY BAKER SHORTLY AFTER OUR PHONE CON-
VERSATION. I NOTED THAT YOU HAD MET WITH FABUNMI, SUB-
SEQUENT TO THE RECEIPT OF RAY'S MOST RECENT MESSAGE
(STATE 180457), AND THAT YOU RECOMMENDED AGAINST AN
APPROACH TO YAR'ADUA AND FELT IT WAS HIGHLY LIKELY
TO PRODUCE A NEGATIVE RESULT.

2. I STATED THAT INSTEAD YOU FELT RAY SHOULD OBTAIN 90
DAY VISA (I NOTED THAT YOU HAD SEEN CABINET OFFICE
LETTE AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE), TRAVEL TO NIGERIA AND
ATTEND NDI BOARD MEETING AND THAT YOU BELIEVED THAT
THIS COURSE OF ACTION, IN COOPERATION WITH FABUNMI,
WOULD LEAD TO ISSUANCE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT AFTER HIS
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ARRIVAL IN NIGERIA.

3. RAY WAS ADAMENT THAT HE WOULD SETTLE FOR NOTHING
SHORT OF APPROACH TO YAR'ADUA AND FULL RESTORATION OF

HIS RESIDENCE PERMIT WITH WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT HE
IS FREE TO RETURN TO NIGERIA AND PROCEED ABOUT HIS

LEGITIMATE BUSINESS WITHOUT FURTHER HARASSMENT. HE IS CONVINCED THAT THERE CAN BE NO LASTING SOLUTION TO HIS PROBLEM UNLESS RESIDENCE PERMIT IS ISSUED BY FIKA AND THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN ONLY UNDER ORDERS FROM YAR'ADUA. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT FIKA IS CURRENTLY ON LEAVE AND REGARDS FABUNMI'S EFFORTS AS AN END RUN AROUND FIKA WHICH WILL FALL APART WHENEVER FIKA LEARNS ABOUT IT.

4. RAY INSISTS ON A FORCEFUL, DETERMINED APPROACH BY YOU TO YAR'ADUA PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE FOR THE US. I ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR PREVIOUS COMMITMENT IN THIS REGARD BUT NOTED THAT THERE WERE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MADE SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION ILL-ADVISED. I PROMISED TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS BUT MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT INSTRUCT YOU ON HOW TO PROCEED AND THAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE BASED ON YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

5. RAY CONTENTS THAT THE FMG NOW IS CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT AGAINST AMERICANS AND OTHER EXPATRIATES THAT IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH EXISTED IN 1976. HE WAS UNSWAYED BY THE STATISTICS WHICH I CITED COMPARING THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS ARRESTED IN 1976 (9) AS COMPARED WITH THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS (2) OR MY ARGUMENT THAT WE HAVE

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NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SUCH CAMPAIGN. HE CONTENTS THAT ITALIANS AND BRITISH BUSINESSMEN HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO CONSTANT HARASSMENT. HE CITED, IN PARTICULAR, AN ALLEGED CAMPAIGN AGAINST EMPLOYEES OF CHASE BANK. I ASKED FOR SPECIFICS BUT HE DECLINED AND SAID CHASE OFFICIALS WOULD ALSO PROBABLY NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM. WE HAVE SINCE SPOKEN WITH CHASE OFFICIALS AND THEY STATE THAT THEIR PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING NOTHING BEYOND THE NORMAL HASSLES OF LIVING IN NIGERIA. CHRISTOPHER

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